

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 01494 121246Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /066 W

-----058424 121908Z /43

R 121230Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1250

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 1494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PGOV, NI, XA

SUBJ: AFRICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD NIGERIA

REF: STATE 208244

1. MALAWI DOES NOT MAINTAIN ACTIVE RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA, EITHER DIPLOMATIC OR COMMERCIAL, AND DOES NOT CONSIDER NIGERIA TO HAVE MUCH INFLUENCE AT PRESENT AMONG OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. GOM BELIEVES THAT NIGERIA HAS ENOUGH PROBLEMS, BOTH IN POLICY AND IN LEADERSHIP, AND THEREFORE WILL NOT SOON BE ABLE TO TAKE AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. FURTHERMORE, GOM WOULD NOT BE PLEASED TO SEE NIGERIA AS SPOKESMAN FOR AFRICA ALTHOUGH GOM HAS NO PERSONAL DISLIKE FOR OBASANJO.

2. FOREGOING BASED ON EMBOFF'S CONVERSATION WITH VINCENT PHIRI, MINEXTAFF POL DEPT CHIEF, WHO ADDED THAT MALAWI AND OTHER AFRICANS HAD HIGHEST REGARD FOR GOWON, A UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL WHO TOWERED OVER MOST OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS AND OBTAINED MORE NIGERIAN INFLUENCE IN AFRICA THAN NORMALLY WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE.

3. COMMENT: AS A SMALL, POOR AND WESTERN-ORIENTED AFRICAN COUNTRY, MALAWI DOES NOT LIKE TO CONTEMPLATE HAVING OTHER COUNTRIES "SPEAK FOR" ALL OF AFRICA. IT HAS NO GRUDGE AGAINST THE

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NIGERIANS SINCE DIRECT RELATIONS ARE MINUTE, SIMPLY AMOUNTING TO CONTACTS AT OAU AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. STEVENSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009